

Sheep and Lambs Inventory I

On January 1, 2003, Wisconsin's sheep and lamb inventory totaled 80,000 head, unchanged from last year. Total breeding stock was up 1,000 to 66,000. Wisconsin farms had 14,000 market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, down 1,000 from last year. The 2002 lamb crop was at 73,000, an increase of 1,000 from 2002. The number of Wisconsin sheep and lamb operations totaled 2,300.

The U.S. sheep and lamb inventory was 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. The breeding inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 2002. Market inventory declined 6 percent from a year ago. The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head fell 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. U.S. operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001. Texas, California, and Wyoming are the top three states with 36 percent of the U.S. sheep and lamb inventory.

Sheep and Lambs — January 1

Class	Wisconsin		United States	
	2003	Change	2003	Change
	1,000 hd	Percent	1,000 hd	Percent
All sheep and lambs	80	n.c.	6,350	-5
Market	14	-7	1,668	-6
Breeding sheep and lambs	66	+2	4,682	-5
Replacement lambs - under one year old	11	+10	702	-4
Ewes - one year old and older	52	n.c.	3,789	-5
Rams - one year old and older	3	n.c.	191	-4
	Number		Number	
Operations (previous year)	2,300	+5	64,170	-1

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.